

CAPSULE SUMMARY
Chapel Point State Park
MIHP # CH-375
Port Tobacco vicinity
Charles County, Maryland
SP=1972
Public

Chapel Point State Park comprises approximately 828 acres in southern central Charles County along the Port Tobacco River on Maryland's interior coastal plain. The property was acquired by the MdDNR in 1972 (MdDNR 1994). The acreage was part of the 4,000-acre St. Thomas Manor held by the Roman Catholic Church since 1638. The land was donated to the MdDNR to protect a scenic viewshed and to protect open space associated with the early development of the State of Maryland (MdDNR 1994). The property transferred to state control with 19 resources, including 5 archeological sites located along the shore of the Port Tobacco River, 13 twentieth-century buildings and structures, and one boundary marker.

The appropriate historic context for evaluating the park is within the theme of public recreation during the period 1972 to the present. The park and associated management practices that have shaped the park since 1972 are less than fifty years of age and would need to possess the qualities of exceptional significance as an historic district for consideration under National Register Criterion Consideration G. Since the property became a park, the land has been minimally managed to maintain open space and natural resources. MdDNR has not constructed permanent buildings or recreation facilities on the property. Chapel Point State Park does not possess the exceptional significance as a park or recreation area under Criterion Consideration G to qualify for listing as an historic district in the National Register of Historic Places.

The buildings currently located on the western portion of the property are associated with two or three tenant farms that operated during the twentieth century. None of the agricultural complexes contain an intact collection of buildings and associated landscape features to illustrate the broad patterns of agricultural history in Charles County from the mid-twentieth century under National Register Criterion A. The surviving resources do not possess a significant association with the operation of St. Thomas Manor prior to 1900. The individual buildings themselves represent a range of simple, mostly agricultural outbuildings that are undistinguished examples of their physical design, type, period, or methods of construction under National Register Criterion C. The archeological sites recorded within Chapel Point State Park have not been formally evaluated.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-375

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Chapel Point State Park

other

2. Location

street and number Chapel Point Road not for publication

city, town south of Port Tobacco ☒ vicinity

county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maryland Department of Natural Resources

street and number 580 Taylor Avenue, E-3 telephone 410-260-8451

city, town Annapolis state MD zip code 21401

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel:

city, town La Plata liber folio

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category

- ☒ district
☐ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

- ☒ public
☐ private
☐ both

Current Function

- ☐ agriculture
☐ commerce/trade ☒
☐ defense
☐ domestic
☐ education
☐ funerary
☐ government
☐ health care
☐ industry
☐ landscape
☒ recreation/culture
☐ religion
☐ social
☐ transportation
☐ work in progress
☐ unknown
☐ vacant/not in use
☐ other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing
	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
19	Total

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

5

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

RESOURCE COUNT

Not evaluated archeological sites ☐ 5

Not evaluated object ☐ ☐ ☐ 1

Resources not NR eligible ☐ ☐ 13

Total Resources ☐ ☐ 19

SUMMARY

Chapel Point State Park comprises approximately 828 acres of undeveloped land that was acquired in 1972 by the State of Maryland from the Corporation of Roman Catholic Clergymen, a body incorporate under the laws of the State of Maryland (Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) 2002; MdDNR Acquisition List 2002). Chapel Point State Park is located in south central Charles County, south of the town of La Plata, on Maryland's interior coastal plain. The park occupies the east shore of the Port Tobacco River, which defines the park's western boundary. The park comprises two sections that are divided by Chapel Point Road and two outparcels that are not owned by the MdDNR. One outparcel is the site of the St. Ignatius Catholic Church and manor house, a graveyard, support residences, outbuildings, and church grounds. The second outparcel is occupied by private residences. Chapel Point Road is not maintained by MdDNR.

The portion of the park located west of Chapel Point Road contains approximately 357 acres and occupies the low terrace near the Port Tobacco River (MdDNR Acquisition List 2002). Three points of land jut into the river. From north to south, these points are named Fourth Point, Deep Point, and Chapel Point. The low terrace above the Port Tobacco River is mostly broad, flat, and open. The land rises to 30 to 40 feet above mean sea level, but slopes steeply in areas along the riverbank. This area contains cleared farm fields, a gravel mine, lines of young trees, wooded and overgrown drainage buffers, unpaved farm roads, and a campsite accessible by water. Some poorly drained areas fed by intermittent streams are found in the northern and southern areas of the low terrace. A former farm road leads to a recreational boat launch located on the Port Tobacco River bank for kayaks, canoes, and personal watercraft. The launch site is located slightly north of Deep Point in the western-central area of the park. The area below the steep bank slope is flat, in some places graveled and littered with cobbles. The tidal Port Tobacco River waters regularly inundate the riverbank. Despite the inundation, some of this flat area below the bank supports scrub, briars and moderately dense undergrowth; much is open during low tides. The bank and tidally affected area are subject to severe erosion from the waters of the Port Tobacco River.

The section of the park east of Chapel Point Road contains approximately 470 acres (MdDNR Acquisition List 2002). This area is hilly, and, in places, the steep landscape rises abruptly to over 150 feet above mean sea level. The upland area contains semi-open, primarily hardwood forest, with some pine. Much of this area is very severely eroded. Deep gullies have sliced into small stream valleys. Exposed soils are sandy and gravelly except where severely eroded. In areas of severe erosion and in the bottoms of deep gullies, dense clay subsoils are exposed. Many of these gullies carry seasonal flows of water that feed poorly drained areas. Some roads and trails penetrate the interior of the upland area; the topography limits automobile traffic. Some short, overgrown, dirt tracks lead off of these roads for short distances into the park interior. These short trails occasionally end in modern household refuse dumps.

A few small, possibly seasonal, and often intermittent drainages flow from the upland interior and the terrace just above the Port Tobacco River. The mapped drainages are unnamed branches of Wills Branch. Numerous small seasonal drainages were observed during field visits conducted in March and April 2003.

Chapel Point State Park contains 19 resources predating 1960. Five archeological sites are identified in the Maryland archeological site files maintained by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) library. Four resources are prehistoric archeological

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sites. The Chapel Point site, the fifth site, spans the prehistoric and historic periods. The archeological sites are located along the shoreline of the Port Tobacco River. The built resources include one boundary marker on the northeast corner of the St. Thomas Manor property, and thirteen buildings and structures constructed during the twentieth century. No buildings have been constructed to support recreational or park activities.

METHODS

The overall purpose of this project is to provide the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) with consistent data on the cultural resources contained within Chapel Point State Park. The survey area consisted of MdDNR-owned lands within the park boundaries as of February 2003 based on a review of property maps verified by the state park personnel. No MdDNR leased properties were surveyed as part of this project. Property owned by other state agencies or private entities were not surveyed as part of this project.

Historical Research

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms and the archeological site files on file at MHT and MdDNR provided the base-line data for historical research conducted for each MdDNR-owned land unit included in the survey. An analysis of the property types and occupation periods of cultural resources provided the basis for identifying the historic themes/historic contexts appropriate to evaluate the historic resources in the park. The development of historic contexts that encompassed the history of land prior to state ownership was synthesized from the architectural and archeological forms and expanded to incorporate information contained in historic maps and other secondary sources, such as published county and local histories and National Register documentation. Research in primary archival materials, such as deed research or genealogical materials available in local historical societies, was not conducted for this project.

Historical research also was undertaken to document the history of the MdDNR land unit. Research was conducted at MdDNR to provide an overview of how each unit came into existence and how the lands that comprise each unit were assembled. The purpose of this research was to determine the reasons behind the establishment of the land unit and subsequent management practices. Sources examined in this research effort included MdDNR real estate acquisition files, land unit files, personnel interviews, park master plans, and relevant secondary sources on the development of parks in the state of Maryland.

Field Survey

Archeological reconnaissance survey focused on the relocation of archeological sites recorded in the archeological site files maintained by MHT. The data in the archeological site files was augmented through review of published literature and unpublished reports available at the MHT library. The mapped or reported location of each recorded site was visited and its condition was assessed, based on surface conditions, (e.g., undisturbed, plowed, eroded, graded/contoured, collected, vandalized, dredged, or other).

Architectural field survey comprised built resources constructed prior to 1960, the landscape elements associated with the individual resources, and the overall landscape of the MdDNR-owned land unit. The list of built resources included in the survey was compiled from the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties maintained at the MHT and the Detailed Maintenance List (DMI) provided by the MdDNR. The DMI, compiled during the late 1990s, contained information about building materials and components, as well as information on location, estimated construction date, dates of renovations, and an assessment of condition. The list of built resources for survey was refined through a review of 1:600 scale maps provided by MdDNR and through interviews with MdDNR personnel. No efforts were made to reconcile the building list for buildings identified as constructed post

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1960 beyond information gathered from knowledgeable park personnel. Construction dates for built resources were assigned based on available MIHP or published documentation, MdDNR Detailed Maintenance Inventory (DMI), historic maps, building construction materials, stylistic ornamentation, and building typologies.

Architectural field investigations were conducted on the exteriors of all pre-1960 buildings to verify the character-defining features and materials of previously identified historic buildings as recorded on MIHP forms and to assess the integrity and overall physical conditions of the exterior materials of the resources. Previously unidentified resources constructed prior to 1960 also were surveyed. No additional architectural data or photographs were collected for pre-1960 MdDNR-owned buildings that are pending demolition for which MdDNR has obtained MHT concurrence letters or MHT Determinations of Eligibility classifying the resource as not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The architectural survey of built resources at Chapel Point State Park was conducted in April 2003.

Building conditions of excellent, good, fair, poor, or ruin were assigned during the architectural survey based on the physical appearance of the exterior materials present on the resource at the time of the site visit. The building classifications do not necessarily reflect those condition assessments recorded in the MdDNR's DMI. For the purposes of this survey, excellent was defined as the overall absence of conditions requiring maintenance or cosmetic repairs. Good meant that building systems and materials appeared to be sound, with minimal problems noted. Cosmetic conditions, such as minor paint failure due to age of paint or minor deterioration of wood elements, could still be classified as good condition if they appeared to be correctable with minor repair. Fair condition was used to denote problems in several types of exterior materials or systems, such as deterioration in wood elements in several systems that could be corrected through maintenance, but without apparent structural damage. Poor denoted systematic problems in several materials or systems, such as large sections of missing siding or roofing, often resulting in evidence of structural failure. Ruin was used to classify buildings or structures that were no longer usable in their current condition.

DESCRIPTIONS

The following descriptions are organized by property types and locations within the park. The property classifications were assigned based on the primary historic function of the property as defined by the National Register of Historic Places (U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service 1997). The property categories are detailed in the accompanying table. Construction dates assigned to the built resources are based on secondary documentation, historic maps, visual inspection, personal communications, and the MdDNR detailed maintenance inventory (MdDNR DMI 2002).

PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Five recorded archeological sites are located within the boundaries of Chapel Point State Park. These cultural resources include four prehistoric sites and one multi-component prehistoric and historic site. Three prehistoric sites are described as shell middens. The fourth site is classified as a Late Archaic lithic artifact and shell scatter. The prehistoric component of the multi-component site is described as an Early and Late Archaic short-term camp as well as an Early through Late Woodland shell midden. The historic component is a cemetery that dates from the seventeenth through the early nineteenth centuries. All the identified sites are located on a low terrace near the eastern shore of the Port Tobacco River.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA REMOVED

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Archaeological Data Removed

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Archaeological Data Removed

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Archaeological Data Removed

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Archaeological Data Removed

GOVERNMENT

The St. Thomas Manor Corner Boundary Marker defines the northeastern corner of the park. Access to the site of the marker is difficult due to the rugged nature of the landscape. The marker is located in a wet, isolated, small stream valley that is fed by intermittent, eroded stream gullies. Some of the surrounding slopes are steep-sided. The overall area is an open hardwood forest with occasional pine and some scrub. No roads serve this area and trail traces lead to the area of the marker. The marker is an east-facing stone tablet that tapers to a rounded point in profile. Crosses are carved on at least the east and north sides. These crosses may represent the exterior of the corner. Flagging tape was placed on or close to the corner marker in the recent past though it is unclear why. It is possible that this tape represents a recent boundary survey. The corner marker appears undisturbed, although its base is settling to the south. The gullied, intermittent, small streams that feed the wetland where the corner marker is situated are very eroded. The condition of the marker is good; however, the corner marker may be obscured under accumulating eroded sediments or may sink into the wetland.

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE AND DOMESTIC

With the exception of the isolated boundary marker, the built resources in the park are located in three clusters in the western section of the park. The southernmost cluster contains a tenant house, two secondary domestic buildings, a machine shed, and a corncrib. The central group of buildings contains a former house site, two machine sheds, and a barn. A group of four agricultural outbuildings is located north of the central tenant house complex. The three concentrations of buildings in the park include resources associated with both domestic and agriculture/subsistence functional categories. However, for the purposes of this description, the buildings will be described in clusters. The buildings in each cluster may not be related historically, since they do not exhibit the spatial relationships commonly associated with discrete farmsteads (i.e., dwellings with associated landscapes and agricultural outbuildings that form unified or related complexes). Construction dates assigned to built resources are based on secondary documentation, historic maps, site inspection, personal communications, and the MdDNR detailed maintenance inventory (MdDNR DMI 2002).

Southern Building Cluster

The Former Catholic Tenant House was built ca. 1955. Although the MdDNR DMI dated the house to 1934 (MdDNR DMI

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2003), the house did not appear on USGS maps dated 1913 or 1954 (USGS 1913, 1954). It first was depicted on a 1968 USGS map (USGS 1968). The house is set in a mowed and manicured lawn. Agricultural fields surround the residence and yards. The house is located in the southwestern portion of the park near the river bank at an intersection of unpaved dirt roads that serve the park interior. The house originally faced east towards the chapel, but the primary entry is now through the west elevation that faces the river. The single-story, three-bay by four-bay house is covered in a coat of stucco. The house rests on a concrete foundation. The front-facing gable roof is sheathed in brown asphalt and fiberglass shingles. A single brick chimney is located off center on the east plane of the roof. The gable ends of the roof are finished with a raking board. A single six-over-six-light window is located in the upper gable of the east elevation. The upper gable is sheathed with painted T1-11 siding. Each gable end contains a centrally-located, wood door with three lights. The windows are various sizes; all are wood-sash, six-over-six-light, double-hung units with brick, slip sills. The windows all have metal storm units. A three-bay porch spans the east elevation; the hip roof is supported by square wood posts. The porch has a concrete slab floor and square wood railing. The porch on the west elevation is a simple, single-bay concrete stoop with iron railings. This house is in good condition. A small amount of paint failure was noted on the exterior. The house exhibits little integrity of design, materials, or workmanship because of modern building materials.

The Former Catholic House Shed was most likely constructed post 1960, since it is associated with the tenant house. The building is located south of the tenant house. The building faces north in the midst of a grassy lawn. The small, wood-frame, single-story, single-bay shed rests on a concrete-block foundation. The exterior of this shed is covered with horizontal wood siding. The pyramidal roof is covered with wood shakes. The main entry is a single, off-center doorway. The door was originally constructed of three panels, but one panel has now missing. A single window opening is located on east, south, and west elevations; the windows are missing. The condition of this shed is poor. Half of the roof is missing. Heavy mildew covers the walls and roof. Deterioration was noted on some wood elements. Metal elements are rusted. The building appears to be unstable.

The Former Catholic Pump House was also constructed ca. 1955 since it is located southwest of the tenant house. The pump house is a small, single-cell shed that housed the apparatus that supplied the house with running water. The exterior of this small building was covered with stucco similar to the house. The front-facing gable roof is sheathed with asphalt/fiberglass shingles. The gable ends are finished with raking boards, while the rafter ends are exposed along the side elevations. The walls of the building are blind. The single plywood door is off-center in the west elevation. The condition of this building is good. Selected paint failure was noted. Some roof shingles have deteriorated.

The Former Catholic Machine Shed is a large building constructed ca. 1947 (MdDNR 2003; USGS 1954). The shed is located west of the tenant house across a dirt road. This single-story, two-bay shed faces south. The shed is a post-in-ground construction and is clad in vertical planks. The shed roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. Two symmetrical open bays serve the interior of this shed. A full-width, flat-roofed porch spans the south elevation to provide an outside storage area. Four-by-four-inch posts sunk into the earth support the standing-seam metal porch roof. This shed is in fair condition, although post repair or replacement is necessary as the ends of the building are beginning to exhibit sagging. This building is actively used as a maintenance facility.

Corncrib 1 is a substantial corncrib located south of the tenant house. The building is sited in a mowed area surrounded by trees atop the bank of the Port Tobacco River. This building was constructed ca. 1900 (MdDNR DMI 2003); it appeared on the 1954 USGS map and may possibly be depicted on the 1913 USGS map (USGS 1913, 1954). The one-story, three-bay by one-bay corncrib rests on brick piers. The building has hewn log sills and wood-frame construction. The cribs are elevated substantially above the ground surface. The floor is wood. The exterior is clad with narrow vertical wood slats. In some places, the siding has been repaired one-by-eight-inch vertical planks. The siding is not flush. Chicken wire has been placed against the siding on the interior of this barn. The gable ends of the corncrib open to the north and south. The gable roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. The corncrib has many hinged wood doors, including one in the upper south gable end. The north gable end has an empty opening. Access to the cribs is through doors located in the gable ends and on the west elevation. A shed-roof, equipment shed

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spans the east elevation. This addition rests on a concrete slab and is clad with wider planks than the corncrib. The roof is covered with standing-seam metal and the end bays are open. The corncrib is in fair to poor condition. Many wood members exhibit deterioration. Insect damage was also noted. Doors and hatch openings are missing from their locations.

Central Building Cluster

The central building cluster in the western section of the park is marked by the ruin of a tenant house, which is located in a swath of trees among farm fields along a north-to-south oriented dirt farm road. The trees serve as an erosion buffer between agricultural fields. The residence was located on the west side of the dirt road. It is unclear from the remains what the alignment or type of dwelling this ruin represented. No building was depicted on the 1913 USGS map, but a residence was located here by 1954 (USGS 1913, 1954). The building was demolished, partially burned and survives as a large pile of debris. Heavy domestic refuse, automobile parts, and structural remains litter the site. It appears that other outbuildings may have stood north of the dwelling. Structural debris may have been dumped in this area or may be related to independent structures built on the site.

A nearly intact Chicken Coop, constructed ca. 1930, is located north of the house ruin. The wood-frame, single-story building faces south. The foundation appears to be cut timber sills seated directly upon the ground. The exterior is clad with horizontal, flush, wood siding. The interior wall material is exposed where the siding has failed. Diagonal planking was used in the construction. The building has a shed roof sheathed with standing-seam metal. The chicken coop has two, openings that are now filled with chicken wire. The east bay has a single, off-center plank door that has fallen into disrepair; two thirds of the door is missing. The condition of the chicken coop is poor. The building is becoming overgrown with vines, shrubs, and small trees. Structurally the building appears unsound and the roof is collapsing. The window glazing is missing and the door is substantially deteriorated.

Two machine sheds and a tobacco barn are located east of the house ruin along the north side of a short dirt lane that leads east from the house ruin. Machine Shed 1, constructed ca. 1945 (USGS 1954), faces south. The three-bay shed is one-story and is wood-frame construction. The foundation is a concrete wall on three sides. The exterior is clad with flush vertical planking. The gable roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. Three large open bays are located in the south elevation. The doors are missing. The condition of this building is poor. Segments of the standing-seam metal roof are missing. Sections of the wood siding are missing. The framing members are sagging.

Machine Shed 2, constructed ca. 1945, is located next to the three-bay machine shed. The one-story, two-bay, wood-frame shed faces south. The exterior is clad with vertical plank siding that is not flush. The shallow gable roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. Two large open bays occupy the south elevation. The condition of this building is fair. Some of the wood elements are deteriorating, including the vertical plank siding. The framing system appears stable and the roof is intact.

Tobacco Barn A, constructed ca. 1900, is located east of two machine sheds. The one-story, wood-frame barn is oriented on an east-west axis. The barn rests on a concrete-block foundation. The exterior is clad with vertical planking that is not flush. The gable roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. Hinged vertical board wood doors are centrally located on both gable ends and the side elevations. Some doors are missing. The interior framing of this barn is different from the other tobacco barns observed in the park. Knee bracing made of heavy beams separates the interior bays. Beams span from the sills to a mid-height horizontal beam and from the horizontal beam at an opposing angle to the top plate. This barn is in fair condition. Some doors are missing. Deterioration and water damage were noted on the wood siding. Some sections of the metal roofing were missing and damaged.

Northern Building Cluster

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Three tobacco barns and one corncrib are located at the north end of the dirt farm road that provides access to the northern area of the park. The tobacco barns all appear to date from approximately between ca. 1940 and ca. 1950. No buildings were depicted on the 1913 USGS map, but three buildings were depicted in this location in 1954 (USGS 1913, 1954). For purposes of this description, RCGA has numbered the tobacco barns with letter designations since the numbers assigned to the barns in the MdDNR detailed maintenance inventory and the numbers painted on some of the barns do not reconcile.

Tobacco Barn B is located west of the dirt farm road and approximately two hundred and fifty feet north of the house ruin. The one-story, wood-frame tobacco barn rests on a concrete-block and poured concrete foundation. Concrete slabs support concrete-block piers under the corners of the barn. The barn is clad with vertical wood board siding that is not flush. Side-hinged sections of the siding planks that run from ground to eave provide additional ventilation. An unglazed window opening is present in the south gable end. Hinged doors are missing from the north gable end. Single doors are present on the side elevations and on the south gable end. The barn is in good condition, although some doors are missing. The walls are overgrown with vines and undergrowth.

Tobacco Barn C is located north of Tobacco Barn B. It is aligned east to west, lengthwise, and is located slightly west of the end of the dirt farm road. The wood-frame tobacco barn rests on a concrete-block foundation. The barn is sided with vertical wood siding that is not flush. The gable roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. A ventilator sheathed in metal is located centrally along the roof ridge. This mechanism is visible from the interior and provides an escape for rising hot air. Ventilation is also provided by side-hinged sections of the vertical siding. The barn has a variety of doors on either gable end. Concrete curbing leads from the double doors on the east gable end. The door on the south bay of the west gable end is missing; all that remains is an empty frame. An empty, wooden window frame is centrally located in the upper quadrant of the southern elevation. A concrete foundation is located northeast of the east gable end. This ruin appears to have once been attached to the barn exterior and may have been the site of a former stripping shed. The condition of this barn is fair. Undergrowth is threatening this barn. Mold and deterioration were noted on the wooden members. Some of the doors and a window are missing.

Tobacco Barn D is the northernmost tobacco barn in Chapel Point State Park. The wood-frame barn is aligned north to south. This barn rests on a concrete-block foundation. The exterior is clad with vertical wood siding that is not flush. Side-hinged sections of the wood siding that run from ground to eave provide ventilation. The gable roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. Double, hinged doors were once located on both gable ends. A single swinging door was located on one side elevation. Many of the doors are missing. The condition of this barn is fair. Deterioration was noted on the wood siding. The roofing exhibits rust. Doors on the gable ends and the side are now missing. The barn is becoming overgrown by undergrowth and vines.

A possible Barn Ruin is located east of Barn C. This area has an overgrown pile of debris. It is heavily overgrown and no features of the former building appear intact.

Corncrib 2, constructed ca. 1945, is located east of Barn C and the possible barn ruin. This one-story, wood-frame corncrib faces south. Comprised of an open bay and a smaller crib area, this corncrib rests on concrete blocks. The exterior is clad with vertical wood siding that is not flush. The planking in the upper gable ends is slightly wider than the slats on the walls. The roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal and has exposed rafter ends in the eaves. The north and south gable end walls feature square, half swinging plank doors that are paired. Triangular wood hatch doors occupy the upper gable ends. Hatch doors are located symmetrically along the walls. This building is in poor condition. It is becoming overgrown with dense vines and undergrowth. The metal roof is rusting. Some exterior plank siding members are missing. Deterioration on wood members and insect infestation were noted on the building.

Table of Resources at Chapel Point State Park

MIHP/Site #	SITENO (or DMI #)	MHT Name	Other Names	County	Quad	Property Category	Property Sub-Category	Property ID	Date of Resource	Condition	Resource Count	Notes	MHT Concurrence
		2											
CH-16				Charles	Mathias Point	Domestic/Agricultural-Subsistence/Funerary/Recreation-Culture/Commerce	Multiple	wharf, farmsteads, cemetery, amusement park	17th, 18th, 19th, 20th centuries	Unknown		same as 18CH79	
	006		Corncrib 1	Charles	Mathias Point	Agriculture/Storage	Storage	corncrib	ca. 1900	Fair	building-1		
	017		Corncrib 2	Charles	Mathias Point	Agriculture/Storage	Storage	corncrib	1945	Poor	building-1		

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MHP/Site #	SITENO (or DMI #)	MHT Name	Other Names	County	Quad	Property Category	Property Sub-Category	Property ID	Date of Resource	Condition	Resource Count		Notes	MHT Concurrence
	010		Former Catholic Tenant House	Charles	Mathias Point	Domestic	Single Dwelling	residence-in-kind	ca. 1955	Good	building-1		1934 per MdDNR DMI, does not appear on 1913 or 1954 USGS maps, appears on 1968 USGS map	
	014		Former Catholic Machine Shed	Charles	Mathias Point	Domestic	Secondary Structure	equipment shed	1947	Fair	building-1		on 1954 USGS map	
	011		Former Catholic Pump House	Charles	Mathias Point	Domestic	Secondary Structure	pump house	ca. 1955	Good	structure-1		Appears assoc. w/ tenant house	
			Machine Shed (3-bay)	Charles	Mathias Point	Agriculture/Subsistence	Storage	equipment shed	1945	Poor	building-1			
			Machine Shed (2-bay)	Charles	Mathias Point	Agriculture/Subsistence	Storage	equipment shed	1945	Fair	building-1			
			Tobacco Barn A	Charles	Mathias Point	Agriculture/Subsistence	Storage	tobacco barn	ca. 1900	Fair	building-1			
			Tobacco Barn B	Charles	Mathias Point	Agriculture/Subsistence	Storage	tobacco barn	1940-1950	Good	building-1			
			Tobacco Barn C	Charles	Mathias Point	Agriculture/Subsistence	Storage	tobacco barn	1940-1950	Fair	building-1			
			Tobacco Barn D	Charles	Mathias Point	Agriculture/Subsistence	Storage	tobacco barn	1940-1950	Fair	building-1			
			Former Catholic Shed	Charles	Mathias Point	Domestic	Secondary Structure	shed	post 1960	Ca	building-1			

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Table of Resources at Chapel Point State Park

MIHP/Site #	SITENO (or DMI #)	MHT Name	Other Names	County	Quad	Property Category	Property Sub-Category	Property ID	Date of Resource	Condition	Resource Count		Notes	MHT Concurrence
			Chicken Coop	Charles	Mathias Point	Domestic	Secondary Structure	chicken coop	ca. 1930	Poor	building-1			
			St. Thomas Boundary Marker	Charles	Mathias Point	Government		boundary marker		Good	object			

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8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	1972	Architect/Builder	N/A
Construction dates	N/A		

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register

☒ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

SUMMARY

Chapel Point State Park comprises approximately 828 acres in southern central Charles County along the Port Tobacco River on Maryland's interior coastal plain. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources acquired the acreage in 1972 from the Corporation of the Roman Catholic Clergymen (MdDNR 1994). The acreage was part of the landholdings of the Roman Catholic Church associated with the 4,000-acre St. Thomas Manor patented in 1638. The land was donated to the MdDNR to protect a scenic viewshed and to retain open space associated with the early development of the State of Maryland (MdDNR 1994). Since 1972, the property has remained undeveloped. MdDNR has not constructed any buildings on the property and the property has been minimally managed.

The property was transferred to state control with 19 resources. Five archeological sites located along the shore of the Port Tobacco River were documented in the archeological site files maintained by the Maryland Historical Trust. Thirteen buildings and structures were constructed during the twentieth century. The buildings include one tenant house, several secondary domestic structures, two corncribs, two machine sheds, and four tobacco barns. The buildings are located in three concentrations in the western section of the park. An isolated boundary marker is located in the northeast corner of the property.

The purpose of this Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) form is to evaluate Chapel Point State Park as a potential historic district and to assess each MdDNR-owned built resource constructed prior to 1960 applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR Part 60.4[a-d]), the criteria for Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 83B, Title 5), and guidance for the evaluation of cultural landscapes. The resources were evaluated individually and collectively, as appropriate.

As a park, the appropriate historic context for evaluating the park is within the theme of public recreation during the period 1972 to the present. The park and associated management practices that have shaped the park since 1972 are less than fifty years of age. Thus, Chapel Point State Park would need to possess the qualities of exceptional significance as an historic district for consideration under National Register Criterion Consideration G. Since the property became a park, the land has been minimally managed to maintain open space and natural resources. MdDNR has not constructed permanent buildings or recreation facilities on the property. Thus, it appears that Chapel Point State Park does not possess the exceptional significance as a park or recreation area under Criterion Consideration G to qualify for listing as an historic district in the National Register of Historic Places.

Historically, the land comprising Chapel Point State Park was associated with the seventeenth-century settlement of Maryland and the activities of the Jesuits to christianize native peoples and to support Catholics in Maryland. Due to the history of the property and its association with the seventeenth-settlement of Maryland, Chapel Point State Park possesses the potential to contain

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important historical archeological sites. As of 2003, no large-scale systematic archeological survey has been undertaken of the property to determine the pattern of seventeenth-century settlement on the property.

The buildings currently located on the western portion of the property are associated with two or three tenant farms that operated during the twentieth century. None of the tenant complexes are complete. The buildings and the agricultural patterns do not have a particularly strong association with the operation of St. Thomas Manor prior to 1900. The twentieth-century tenant complexes represent the last 70 years of tenancy on the property. At that time, the Jesuit order was phasing out their ownership of the property, which they turned over to MdDNR in 1972. None of the agricultural complexes contain an intact collection of buildings and associated landscape features to illustrate the broad patterns of agriculture in Charles County during the mid twentieth century under National Register Criterion A. The complexes are not documented as associated with significant historical persons under National Register Criterion B. The individual buildings themselves represent a range of utilitarian, mostly agricultural outbuildings that are undistinguished examples of their physical design, type, period, or methods of construction under National Register Criterion C. The prehistoric sites and historic sites recorded within Chapel Point State Park have not been formally evaluated for National Register eligibility.

PARK HISTORY

Chapel Point State Park comprises approximately 827 acres in southern central Charles County, south of the town of La Plata, on Maryland's interior coastal plain. The park occupies the east bank of the Port Tobacco River, which defines the park's western boundary. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources purchased the acreage in 1972 for the sum of \$10.00 from the Corporation of Roman Catholic Clergymen, a body incorporate under the laws of the State of Maryland (MdDNR 1994). The acreage had been part of the landholdings of the Roman Catholic Church since the 4,000-acre St. Thomas Manor grant was patented in 1638. The land was given to the MdDNR to protect a scenic view shed and to maintain open space associated with the early development of the State of Maryland (MdDNR 1994). The property transferred with a variety of built resources that were constructed during the twentieth century. These built resources included one tenant house, secondary domestic structures, two corncribs, two machine sheds, and four tobacco barns. All of these buildings are located in the western section of the park.

Since 1972, the property has remained undeveloped. MdDNR has not constructed permanent buildings on the property and the property has been minimally managed. The acreage on the level topography near the river has been leased for agriculture. Some edge habitat plantings have been cultivated to support the propagation of game species. Examination of the landscape suggests that some tree planting has occurred during the last twenty years. The western section of the park is a no-hunt area. Duck blinds have been installed along the shoreline of the Port Tobacco River. A sand boat launch for canoes, kayaks, and personal watercraft was established north of Deep Point by 1994. The boat launch area has an unimproved gravel parking area. Access to the west section of the park is provided by unimproved former farm lanes. In 2002, a paddle-in campsite was established on the property.

The eastern section of the park is primarily forested. No improvements have been undertaken in this area. Hunting is permitted in this section of the park. Some former farm lanes and trails penetrate this area, but the topography limits vehicular access.

The primary recreation activities at Chapel Point State Park are hunting, fishing, boating, and occasional camping (MdDNR 2003). Approximately 106 acres are under agricultural leases. In April 2003, a tenant resided on the property and maintained some of the grounds. As of 1994, the planned future use of the park was described as to "continue historic purposes through resource-based undeveloped uses as part of the Potomac River Greenway" (MdDNR 1994).

EVALUATION

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The purpose of this Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) form is to evaluate Chapel Point State Park as a potential historic district and to assess each MdDNR-owned built resource constructed prior to 1960 applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR Part 60.4[a-d]) and the criteria for Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 83B, Title 5), collectively and individually, as appropriate. In order to undertake this evaluation, it is appropriate to discuss the park as a cultural landscape applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes (McClelland and Keller 1995) and Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes (Birnbaum 1996). Elements examined as part of this analysis included spatial patterns and land use, topography, water features, circulation networks, cultural traditions, buildings and structures, clusters, and archeological sites.

Chapel Point State Park was acquired in 1972 from the Corporation of Roman Catholic Clergymen. The property had been Jesuit land since it was patented in 1638. The Corporation of Roman Catholic Clergymen retains approximately 10.6 acres located in an outparcel near Chapel Point Road near the middle of the park. The primary buildings associated with the property retained by the Catholic Church include St. Thomas Manor (CH-6), St. Ignatius Church, a servant's quarters, a tobacco barn, and a corncrib. These buildings are not owned by MdDNR. The buildings and the 10.6 acres were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) holds an easement on the church and manor.

The property that was given to the State of Maryland to create Chapel Point State Park contained portions of the historic church compound occupied by the Jesuit priests, the wharf and industrial/crafts area located on or near Chapel Point, and tenanted leaseholds. The twentieth-century buildings currently in the park are located in the western portion of the park between the Chapel Point Road and Port Tobacco River. The buildings range in construction dates from ca. 1900 to ca. 1950 and are accessed by several unpaved farm lanes. The eastern section of the park has been allowed to reforest; no buildings or structures survive in that area, with the exception of a boundary marker.

As a park, the appropriate historic context for evaluating the park is the theme of public recreation during the period 1972 to the present. The management practices that have shaped the park since 1972 are less than fifty years of age. Thus, Chapel Point State Park must possess the qualities of exceptional significance to qualify as an historic district for listing under National Register Criterion Consideration G. Since the property became a park, the land has been minimally managed to maintain open space and natural resources. MdDNR has not constructed permanent buildings or recreation facilities on the property. Chapel Point State Park does not possess the exceptional significance as a park or recreation area under Criterion Consideration G to qualify for listing as an historic district in the National Register of Historic Places.

Historically, the land comprising Chapel Point State Park was associated with the early settlement of Maryland. The acreage was initially settled during the 1630s and 1640s by the Society of Jesus of the Roman Catholic Church and their tenants and was associated with efforts to christianize native peoples and support Catholics in Maryland. As such, the property is associated with the seventeenth-century settlement of Maryland. The history of the property suggests that the park possesses the potential to contain historic archeological resources. In 1985, the Piscataway Nation sought 10 acres of the land at Chapel Point State Park to use for ceremonies (Bastian n.d.) Mervin Savoy reported an Indian cemetery on a 10-acre plot on the point. This cemetery appears to coincide with that which contained European burials dating to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. As of 2003, no comprehensive systematic archeological survey has been undertaken of the property.

From the initial settlement during the seventeenth century to its transfer to the State of Maryland, the property that is now Chapel Point State Park was divided between the church lot and tenant leaseholds, whose rents and/or produce supported the activities of the Jesuit priests. Evidence of the former agricultural history of the park has been largely erased from the eastern portion of the park by reforestation. The buildings currently located on the western portion of the property are associated with two or three tenant farms that operated during the twentieth century. None of these agricultural complexes contain a complete collection of buildings

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and associated landscape features to illustrate the broad patterns of agricultural history in Charles County during the mid twentieth century (Criterion A). The southernmost tenant house complex contains the only surviving house, a few secondary domestic outbuildings, and a corncrib. No barns associated with the southernmost tenant complex survive. The central tenant complex contains a house site, a chicken coop, two machine sheds, and a tobacco barn. The northernmost complex of buildings contains three tobacco barns and a corncrib. It is unknown if this latter complex of agricultural buildings was associated with a tenant house. The buildings and the agricultural patterns do not possess a significant association with the operation of St. Thomas Manor prior to 1900. The twentieth-century tenant complexes represent the last approximate 70 years of tenancy on the property. During this period, the Jesuits were phasing out their utilization of the property, which they turned over to MdDNR in 1972. No persons significant in history have been documented as associated with these buildings under National Register Criterion B.

The individual buildings represent a range of simple, mostly agricultural outbuildings that are undistinguished examples of their physical design, type, period, or methods of construction under National Register Criterion C. The four tobacco barns are associated with the resurgence of tobacco growing in Charles County during the first half of the twentieth century.

Chapel Point has the potential to be an historic site, but the site has not been officially evaluated applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. The prehistoric archeological sites recorded within Chapel Point State Park have not been formally evaluated.

RESOURCE HISTORY

The prehistoric and historic contexts relevant to Charles County have been organized around chronological periods and themes identified by the MHT in its cultural resources documents (Weissman 1987; MHT 2000).

The Paleo-Indian/Early Archaic Period (ca. 11,000-6,500 B.C.)

The Paleo-Indian/Early Archaic period spanned the time from about 12,000 to 6,500 B.C. The continuity of adaptive pattern throughout these periods (Gardner 1979, 1983) found in archeological investigations at the Flint Run Paleo-Indian Complex in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia suggests that grouping them is warranted. Diagnostic artifacts for the early portion of this temporal period (Paleo-Indian period) include Clovis, Mid-Paleo, and Dalton projectile point types. Side-notched and corner-notched projectile points such as Palmer, Kirk, and Warren types are associated with the later portion (Early Archaic) (Custer 1984:43; Gardner 1980:3). Most of these projectile point types have been identified in collections from southern Maryland (Wanser 1982).

The environment at this time was conditioned by the transition between Late Pleistocene and Holocene climates. Climatic episodes defined by Carbone (1976) for the Shenandoah Valley are broadly applicable to the study area. Episodes pertinent to the Paleo-Indian period are the Late Glacial (ca. 15,000 - 8,500 B.C.) and the Pre-Boreal/Boreal (8,500 - 6,700 B.C.) (Custer 1984; Kavanagh 1982; Steponaitis 1983). The Late Glacial represents the terminal Pleistocene and the "last effects of the glaciers upon climate in the Middle Atlantic area" (Custer 1984:44). Pollen records suggest that tundra conditions existed as far south as central Pennsylvania at about 9,300 B.C. (Kavanagh 1982:8). Farther south, pollen and faunal assemblage data indicate a "mosaic" pattern of vegetation (Custer 1984:44). Carbone described the Late Glacial vegetation in the Shenandoah Valley as composed of microhabitats, including mixed deciduous gallery forests near the river, mixed coniferous-deciduous forest and grasslands in the foothills and valley floor, coniferous forest on the high ridges, and alpine tundra in the mountains (Kavanagh 1982:8). Steponaitis (1983:39) has suggested that the Late Glacial vegetational assemblage along the Patuxent River drainage in Anne Arundel County "may have included spruce and pine as the dominant woody taxa, with stands of deciduous trees occurring in the more protected areas." It is probable that the faunal assemblage included Pleistocene megafauna, although the extent of human reliance on these animals is debated (Custer 1984; Gardner 1980; Kavanagh 1982).

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The Pre-Boreal/Boreal climatic episode was a period of transition from the late Pleistocene into the full Holocene. Climatic change involved warmer summer temperatures, with continued wet winters. Vegetation shifted in response to these changes, and for the Shenandoah Valley, Carbone (1976:186) suggested "the expansion of coniferous and deciduous elements and a reduction in open habitats." Subarctic woodland probably covered the high elevations, with coniferous forests on the slopes and a mixed coniferous-deciduous forest on the valley floors and footlands (Carbone 1976:186). The faunal assemblage may have included moose, bear, elk, deer, and smaller game animals (Kavanagh 1982; Johnson 1986).

Gardner (1979, 1983) has identified six site types in the Shenandoah Valley Paleo-Indian settlement system. These may be more widely applicable in the Middle Atlantic (Custer 1984). They include: (1) quarry sites; (2) quarry reduction stations; (3) quarry-related base camps; (4) base camp maintenance stations; (5) outlying hunting stations; and, (6) isolated point finds. High-quality lithics were the focal point for the settlement system, and hunting was the subsistence base (Custer 1984; Gardner 1979; Stewart 1980).

The rationale for including the traditional Early Archaic in the Paleo-Indian period is that the settlement and subsistence patterns seem not to have changed substantially. This notion is supported by evidence of continuity in lifeways from a number of areas in the Middle Atlantic, including Delaware (Custer 1984), the Shenandoah Valley (Gardner 1980), and the Great Valley of Maryland and Pennsylvania (Stewart 1980). It appears that the settlement/subsistence regime had begun to incorporate a more diversified resource base by the Kirk phase, which perhaps can be viewed as transitional to the Archaic. For example, Stewart (1980:6) has interpreted the use of rhyolite in the Great Valley during this phase as indicative of expansion into new environmental zones as the hunting-based economy refocused on more diverse species. In Northern Virginia, Johnson (1986:2-11) noted larger numbers of sites and projectile point finds from the Kirk phase, which he has interpreted as a result of the diversifying subsistence base.

Archaic Period (ca. 6,500-1,000 B.C.)

The Archaic Period encompassed the periods traditionally referred to as Middle Archaic (6,500 - 3,000 B.C.) and Late Archaic (3,000 - 1,000 B.C.). Diagnostics of the Middle Archaic include bifurcate base points like St. Albans, LeCroy, and Kanawha, as well as the Stanly, Morrow Mountain, Guilford, and Neville types (Custer 1984; Stewart 1980). The date of 6,500 B.C. marks the emergence of the full Holocene environment and corresponds to the beginning of the Atlantic climatic episode. This episode involved a warm and humid period that continued to about 5,000 B.C., followed by a cooling trend (Custer 1984:62-63). Gardner has summarized human adaptation in response to the Holocene environment:

By 6,500 B.C., the Post-Pleistocene conditions had changed so dramatically that the adaptations of the long-lived Paleo-Indian-Early Archaic system could no longer function in a viable manner. The hunting emphasis was thus abandoned and general foraging rose to pre-eminence. This resulted in a major settlement shift away from a primary focus on sources of cryptocrystalline stone and the distribution of generalized, but seasonally available set of resources [Gardner 1987:77].

Diagnostics of the Middle Archaic found in southern Maryland include most of the known projectile point types of the Middle Atlantic Region; these include the Stanly/Neville, Morrow Mountain, and Stark stemmed forms, and the Guilford lanceolate form. Relatively few archeological sites containing Middle Archaic artifacts have been examined within Maryland Research Unit 11 (Wesler et al. 1981); although this may be due, in part, to inundation of lower river areas caused by sea level rise during the Middle Holocene. A number of sites containing Middle Archaic diagnostic artifact types have been reported along Zekiah Swamp, but these have not been studied in detail.

The Late Archaic occurred roughly within the Atlantic/Sub-Boreal Transition (3,000 - 700 B.C.). This was a warm, dry period that

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"culminated in the xerothermic or 'climatic optimum' around 2,350 B.C., when it was drier and 2° C warmer than modern conditions" (Kavanagh 1982:9). Vegetation patterns included the reappearance of open grasslands, and an expansion of oak-hickory forests in the valley floors and on hillsides.

Diagnostics of the Late Archaic in the study area are thought to include Piscataway, Vernon, Holmes, Susquehanna BROADSPEAR, and Dry Brook projectile points. Scattered campsites focused on major rivers appear to have formed a major element within the settlement pattern (Wesler et al. 1981:181). The large number of Late Archaic diagnostic projectile points recovered along Zekiah Swamp indicate that exploitation of this interior zone was an important part of the local settlement system. Schmitt (1952) identified a Zekiah Swamp variant of the Fishtail point that probably dates from the Late Archaic.

It is interesting to note that Custer does not accept the broadspear and fishtail styles as cultural markers. Instead, he interprets them as "a distinctive set of tools and knives that are in no way connected with special groups of people" (Custer 1984:79). His interpretation is in accord with the earlier empirical work by Cook (1976a) and Dunn (1984) indicating that such points were used as knives. Custer feels that such points are cutting tools, and postulates that the Bare Island/Lackawaxen (locally, Holmes) point type continued as the associated projectile through the Late Archaic.

Woodland Period (1,000 B.C. to A.D. 1600)

In general, this period corresponds to the Sub-Atlantic climatic episode (ca. 940 B.C. - modern times). While it has been customary to characterize the environment after at least 3,000 B.P. as approximating modern conditions, it also is apparent that climatic changes of varying intensities took place during this period. The episodic nature of climatic change documented for the Shenandoah Valley by Carbone (1976, 1982) can be seen to have continued, at least in attenuated form, into the Late Holocene. The episodes or perturbations that characterized the Late Holocene represent minor changes in comparison to the variations that took place earlier in the Holocene; nonetheless, evidence indicates that "locally significant changes did occur" (Bryson and Wendland 1967:281).

The short-term perturbations that characterized the Late Holocene climatic structure are of interest because it appears that times of environmental stress can be expected at periods of transition between episodes (Carbone 1976; Custer 1980). Carbone (1976:200) noted three of these possible stress periods: (1) 3,000 - 2,600 B.P., Sub-Boreal/Sub-Atlantic transition; (2) 1,750 - 1,305 B.P., Sub-Atlantic/Scandic transition; and, (3) 870 B.P., Neo-Atlantic/Pacific transition. Wendland and Bryson proposed that:

The step-wise model of climatic change suggests that dependent environmental variables, i.e., climatic "proxies," should record these abrupt discontinuities in their own response to the climate. If climatic discontinuities are sufficiently abrupt and of sufficient magnitude, environmental subsystems which respond to the climate should contain discontinuities in their record, thus providing a "proxy" indicator of the covariate, climate [Wendland and Bryson 1974:10].

They analyzed pollen record discontinuities and cultural continuities worldwide, and demonstrated that the potential stress periods noted above were characterized by botanical and cultural discontinuities on a global level. On the regional level, correspondences between climatic/environmental patterns and cultural sequences during the Woodland have been noted for the Middle Atlantic as a whole (Carbone 1982), and for the Shenandoah Valley (Fehr 1983).

The Early Woodland subperiod can be dated from about 1,000 - 500 B.C. (Gardner 1982). Characteristic ceramics of the period include steatite-tempered Marcey Creek and Seldon Island wares, and sand-tempered Accokeek wares. Fishtail and corner-notched projectile point forms have been found in association with these early ceramics in southern Maryland and nearby areas. Wesler et al. (1981) also include Popes Creek Net-Impressed ceramics in the Early Woodland, although this type more often is viewed as a

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marker of the Middle Woodland (Gardner 1982; Stewart 1981). The Calvert and Rossville projectile points apparently are associated with Accokeek and Popes Creek ceramics (Wesler et al. 1981:183).

Gardner (1982:58-60) has proposed two settlement pattern models for the Late Archaic to Early Woodland on the Inner Coastal Plain. The "fusion-fission" model suggests that macro-social population units fused seasonally along both fresh and salt water estuaries to exploit fish runs, and that populations dispersed seasonally to form micro-social unit camps involved in exploiting other resources. The "seasonal shift" model suggested that the same population formed macro-social and micro-social unit camps in both fresh water and salt water zones, and moved laterally between these zones on a seasonal basis (Gardner 1982:59).

Diagnostics of the Middle Woodland (ca. 500 B.C. - A.D. 1000) in the Coastal Plain include Popes Creek Net-Imprinted and Mockley ceramics. Other Middle Woodland sites are identified by projectile points including Fox Creek, Selby Bay, and (for the terminal Middle Woodland) Jack's Reef types. Middle Woodland subsistence is thought to have depended heavily on riverine and estuarine resources; no definite evidence for horticulture has been found in the region for this period. Site location generally is associated with the presence of aquatic resources.

On the Coastal Plain, the shell-tempered Townsend series dominated after A.D. 900 (Clark 1980:18). Crushed-rock tempered Potomac Creek ware appeared somewhat later and was prevalent in the Inner Coastal Plain/Fall Line areas (Egloff and Potter 1982:112). Moyaone ware is a minority type associated with the Potomac Creek ceramic tradition (Stephenson et al. 1963:120-125). The greatest concentration of Potomac Creek ceramics is restricted to the inner coastal plain of the Potomac River, where it is thought to be associated with early seventeenth century Conoy Indian groups, such as the Piscataway in Maryland and the Tauxent and Potomac (Patawomeke) groups in Virginia (Egloff and Potter 1982:112; Cissna 1986:15; Clark 1980:8; Potter 1982:133-135; Potter 1993:125). Both Townsend and Potomac Creek ceramic types have been identified on the Western Shore. Triangular projectile points are also a diagnostic artifact of the Late Woodland period, and they persisted until European contact.

Wesler et al. (1981:109) have summarized the general Late Woodland pattern of the Western Shore as follows: the basic subsistence pattern was one of staple agriculture, supporting large agricultural villages usually in floodplain settings. Hunting and gathering were not neglected, as upland campsites and estuarine shell middens are well known.

The period after A.D. 1500 was characterized by increasing social and political centralization among many native Algonquian groups of the Virginia-Maryland Tidewater. Ethnohistoric and archeological data suggests that the Piscataway, Patawomeke, and other groups in Virginia and Maryland may have formed an interdistrict alliance in the inner coastal plain prior to European contact (Potter 1993:151). Potter (1993) suggests that the small chiefdoms south of the Potomac River, such as the Patawomekes, withdrew from the alliance by the late sixteenth century. The remnant groups on the Maryland shore later were known as the Conoy chiefdom.

Native American proto-historic and early historic period settlement patterns in western Charles County are poorly documented. It is likely that they were similar to those of the Patawomekes and North Carolina Algonquians, which were characterized by a palisaded capital town or village that housed the werowance and a number of outlying hamlets, where a majority of the population lived (Potter 1993:175).

Some sources have suggested that Spanish missionaries visited Charles County during the sixteenth century as they explored the Chesapeake Region. However, substantial European contact with native peoples in the area did not occur until the seventeenth century. During his voyages up the Potomac in 1608, John Smith identified the Indian village of "Potopaco;" the seventeenth century English trader Henry Fleet also visited "Patobanos" (Klapthor and Brown 1958:2-6). One of the early Christian missionaries to the Native Americans in Maryland was Father Andrew White who established a mission church at Chapel Point shortly after landing in the colony of Maryland in 1634. By about A.D. 1650, most Indians had left the lower Potomac, and had

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moved up the Potomac River to Piscataway villages in Prince George's County (Klapthor and Brown 1958:7). One of these palisaded villages, Moyaone, was excavated by Ferguson during the 1930s (Stephenson et al. 1963). In an ossuary, Ferguson found large quantities of Potomac Creek ceramics in context with seventeenth century European trade goods (Ferguson and Stewart 1940). The Susquehannock Wars of 1675-1676 dealt a severe blow to Indian-white relationships in the Potomac region. Several Charles County residents served in the militia during this struggle, and some were killed (Klapthor and Brown 1958:30).

Contact and Settlement Period (1570-1750)

In 1632, Cecil Calvert inherited a charter for a new English colony in the northern Chesapeake from his father, George Calvert, who had secured the Maryland grant from Charles I. In 1634, approximately 150 English colonists settled at St. Mary's City along the eastern shore of the St. Mary's River estuary. Among these early colonists were Jesuit priests of the Roman Catholic Church who established churches in the new colony. The Virginia Colony's success with tobacco cultivation encouraged early Maryland colonists to adopt a similar agricultural economy. Small plantations planted in tobacco dominated Maryland's economy during the seventeenth century (Menard et al. 1988:185).

Population grew steadily, although settlement occurred primarily within what is now St. Mary's County. The earliest patent issued for land in what became Charles County occurred in 1638 (Hardy 2002). The first patent was for 4,000 acres known as St. Thomas Manor and was issued to Father Thomas Copley, a Jesuit priest (Hardy 2002). Father Copley received the patent as a headright for transporting ten able-bodied men to the colony (Engineering-Science 1987:3). The land was granted by Lord Baltimore to support the priests and the mission of the Roman Catholic Church in the colony. One of the early objectives of the Roman Catholic Church was to convert the Native populations to Christianity. Jesuit priests sought to establish missions among the native tribes, an activity that was forbidden by Lord Baltimore until 1639. In 1639, Father Andrew White, SJ, took up residence with the Tayac or paramount chief of the Piscataway Indians at their main village on Piscataway Creek. Father White baptized the Piscataway Tayac and members of his family and other principal men in the village in July 1640. Father White lived with in the Piscataway village until 1642, when he removed to Chapel Point due to its proximity to other villages and to avoid attacks by the Susquehannock tribe that began in 1634 and escalated when Maryland declared war on them in 1642. White reported that the new location of the mission near the village of Portobacco, was centrally located to many Indian villages, and had the "convenience of making excursions from it in all directions" (Jesuit Letter 1642:136; Graham 1935:8). Father Philip Fisher already was active in spreading Christianity to the Indians living along the Port Tobacco River. Prior to 1642, a young "queen" (wife of Werowance or Chief?) and many others from Portobacco had accepted Christianity. From this base, Catholic Priests continued their work to convert Piscataway, Yaocomico, Nanjemoy, Mattawoman and other groups who were settled in and around the Indian town of Portobacco or Portobacke (Lee 1994). Father Andrew White, SJ, "Maryland's First missionary and historian," prepared a translation of the catechism into local Native tongues while at Chapel Point (Rivoire 1987).

Between 1644 and 1647, the Catholic-Puritan conflict that was taking place in England was felt in the colony of Maryland. One effect felt in Maryland was attacks on Jesuits and their property by the Puritans. One Jesuit property attacked was the mission at Chapel Point. In ca. 1644, Richard Ingle and other Protestants raided St. Mary's and seized control of the Maryland government. They captured Fathers White and Copley and sent them to England in irons to stand trial for treason and for being Catholic priests. White and Copley eventually were acquitted. The Jesuit lands at Chapel Point were restored in 1648, and Father Copley returned to his mission among the Native Americans until his death in 1653. Father White remained in England where he died in 1656.

In 1649, the legal title to the 4,000-acre St. Thomas Manor was transferred from Father Copley to Thomas Matthews, who served as a trustee for the church, since the church could not hold legal title to land at this time. Matthews returned the title to the church in 1662, when a permanent mission was established on the site. The new chapel was sited where St. Ignatius Church presently is located east of the river above the floodplain. The new chapel and house were constructed of brick (Rivoire 1987). The location of

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the older log mission building is in dispute. One source suggested that the location is on Chapel Point, near the old cemetery. Graham (1935:9) suggested that the original mission building was located on the cove between Deep Point and Fourth Point; this was the location of the William Hunter's house, where the consecration of the permanent mission occurred in 1662. The acreage associated with the manor spanned both sides of the Port Tobacco River. The approximately 3,500 acres located west of the Port Tobacco River were organized into leaseholds. The remaining acreage on the east side of the river provided the Jesuit priests with food, crops, and income.

Maryland recovered from Ingle's Rebellion during the 1650s and 1660s, despite continued political turmoil. Land patents continued to be issued along the Port Tobacco River. In 1649, the 1,000-acre Causin's Manor was patented south of St. Thomas Manor. That same year, 2,000 acres of Chandler's Hope, including Warehouse Point, was patented to Lieutenant William Lewis (Graham 1935:9). The area's white population grew, so that in 1658, Charles County was officially created. Charles County originally included all the land between the Wicomico River and the Potomac River. The creation of Prince George's County in 1695 defined the northern boundary of Charles County (Walsh 1977:2-3).

Charles County's early population grew steadily. In 1660, the white population numbered approximately 900 persons; by 1670, the white population numbered approximately 1,884 (Hardy 2002). In contrast, the Native American population decreased. By ca. 1655, the Port Tobacco Indian tribes had disappeared from the region (Graham 1935). White settlement was dispersed by modern standards (Walsh 1977:1-6). The colonial legislature attempted to encourage growth of towns through the establishment of ports. Port Tobacco was among these towns. Port Tobacco was selected as the meeting place for an official government council to discuss the question of Indian derived land titles. By 1661, the town had a constable (Graham 1935:10). In 1684, the legislature established tobacco inspection ports at Port Tobacco and Nanjemoy Creek (Klapthor and Brown 1958:33).

As the English population expanded into new areas, conflicts arose with the native inhabitants of the region. During the early 1660s the colonial Maryland government attempted to manage interactions with the Piscataway and villages such as Portobacco. The Maryland Council involved themselves in chiefly succession in 1662 and 1663 when they traveled to Portobacco and Piscataway to approve the selection of a new Tayac. Later that year, the Governor ordered the English settlers not to settle within three miles of Indian settlements. This order was apparently in response to complaints by the "Queen of Portoback" that they had to leave their riverside town and move to the outer extent of their territory because English livestock was eating their corn (Archives of Maryland III: 489; Cissna 1986:153). Continued conflict between Indians and colonists over land culminated in a series of murders resulting in the Treaty of 1666 in which Indian communities on the Potomac (including the Portobackes) acknowledged the authority of the English Governor and legal system in return for acknowledgement of the Indian's right to hunt and fish in the region, protection from Iroquoian attacks, and land set aside for Indian use only (Cissna 1986:158-163). The treaty also established mechanisms for penalties and compensation for stealing or damage by livestock. In 1669 a 10,000-acre reservation was established for a number of Potomac River groups, including the Potobacco. That same year records suggest that groups of Indians were leaving the region for Virginia and to join the Susquehannocks in the lower Susquehanna River Valley.

Lord Baltimore envisioned a stratified society for his Maryland colony dominated by gentry with large manor holdings. During the second half of the seventeenth century, freeholders farming a few acres came to dominate the colony. The new colonists usually were young, single men who found the opportunities for advancement better in Maryland than in England (Menard 1975:57-153, 161, 213-277 & passim). The typical freeholder of this time period entered the colony as an indentured servant. Upon completion of his indenture, he could expect to acquire a small freehold. However, the mortality rate for the Chesapeake region was extremely high. Because comparatively few immigrants were women, the population was not self-sustaining during these years. Instead, Maryland remained primarily a land of immigrant men (Menard 1975:213-278; Walsh 1977:7-15).

Rural Agrarian Intensification (1680-1815)

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By the close of the seventeenth century, significant changes in Maryland's demographic and economic conditions resulted in the transformation of Maryland society. Maryland's population became more diverse. A self-sustaining, native-born white population developed, and, as a result, the Chesapeake Bay society region began to undergo social and economic stratification. Families formed networks, and successful families accumulated sufficient wealth to found economic dynasties. During the first quarter of the eighteenth century, a socially and politically dominant gentry class emerged. Late-arriving immigrants, lacking the upward mobility of their seventeenth century counterparts, emigrated westward in search of greater opportunity (Kulikoff 1986:261-313; passim).

Although most of the earliest immigrants were men, some women also entered the colony as indentured servants. Upon completion of their term, these women were free to marry and to raise families. Children of these families were more resistant to local climate and disease, making them less susceptible to an early death. Since native-born women tended to marry at an earlier age, they produced large families (Menard 1975:193-200).

During the eighteenth century, the center of the Roman Catholic religion in Maryland was St. Ignatius Church on St. Thomas Manor in Charles County. In 1765, of the total 10,000 Roman Catholics reported in the colony of Maryland, approximately 800 to 1,000 attended church services at St. Ignatius Church (Lee 1994:74). This number worshiped despite restrictions. In 1692, the Anglican Church had become the official religion of the colony (Rivoire 1987). Roman Catholics were not allowed to vote or operate schools. Catholic churches were banned and services were held in private chapels attached to residences (Lee 1994:75).

St. Thomas Manor operated a successful plantation. In 1774 and again in 1783, the Jesuit Society at St. Thomas Manor was the largest landowner in Charles County. In 1774, St. Thomas Manor encompassed 5,200 acres (Lee 1994:24). The tenants on Chapel Point farm cultivated tobacco, wheat, corn, orchards, and garden produce (Hardy 2002; Lee 1994:31-32). During the colonial period, Chapel Point was the site of a wharf, a warehouse, and a store (Hardy 2002). The Jesuits also operated a gristmill near Port Tobacco prior to 1715 (Lee 1994:31).

The prosperity of the manor resulted in the construction of new buildings. In 1741, the Jesuits began the construction of a new brick dwelling, which was the most architecturally sophisticated mansion on the Maryland side of the Potomac River (Rivoire 1987). The St. Thomas Manor (MIHP # CH-6) is a noteworthy example of the Georgian style in Charles County (Rivoire 1987). The chapel attached to the residence certainly accommodated more parishioners than the Jesuits who lived in the house (Lee 1994:75). In 1783, the assessor described the buildings located at the manor as including "a large and elegant two-story brick dwelling to which is joined a Chapple (sic)..., a very large barn with an open shed in front, a large corn house with two close sheds laid off in convenient stables also a very old kitchen and four Negro quarters, 3 old tob (tobacco) houses and a new meat house, about 20 apple trees and a large and beautiful garden" (quoted in Rivoire 1987). It is assumed that this passage describes the buildings immediately associated with the manor and the church lot, and not all buildings on leaseholds on the surrounding property.

Workers on St. Thomas Manor included free leaseholders, Irish servants, and slaves (Lee 1994). Slaves were first given to the Jesuits in 1711, and, by 1775, several hundred slaves were working on the manor (Engineering-Science 1987:8). Leaseholders were generally long-term tenants who paid an annual rent. The terms of one tenant on St. Thomas Manor required a yearly rent of 2,000 pounds of tobacco and 100 pounds of pork. In addition, the tenant was required to plant 100 fruit trees and 100 oak or locust trees every year. Terms of other leases required tenants to provide poultry or capons to the Jesuits (Lee 1994:64).

During the eighteenth century, the average tobacco planter earned a modest annual income of approximately £100. Mid-sized land holdings of between 50 and 249 acres were more common due to land speculation and to increased land purchases by former indentured servants (Wesler et al. 1981). Settlements were widely dispersed and towns developed slowly. Port Tobacco served as

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the main social, political, and economic center of Charles County from its establishment as the county seat in 1727 until the latter half of the nineteenth century (Klapthor and Brown 1958:46). In 1771, Father George Hunter attempted to establish the "Town of Edinburgh", named for the proprietary governor Sir Robert Eden, within St. Thomas Manor a mile south of Port Tobacco. Questions arose as to the legality of selling land patented to the Roman Catholic Church to establish the town and the provincial Assembly refused Hunter's petition requesting such authority. The town was never established (Lee 1994:35).

The economy of Charles County stabilized during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Tobacco continued to provide the major source of county revenue; however, concern over soil depletion forced farmers to diversify crops. Many planters, especially those in the Wicomico and Port Tobacco river valleys, grew wheat and corn as the market for cereal grains expanded both at home and abroad (Rivoire 1990:20). The shift to wheat was influenced by the decline in tobacco prices, soil exhaustion, and the inferior type of tobacco raised along the Potomac River. By 1794, three gristmills operated in Charles County (Griffith 1794).

The African-American population was of utmost importance to agriculture during this period. Declining numbers of white indentured servants forced farmers to search for a cheap, reliable labor force. Planters relied ever more heavily upon African-American slaves. Slavery was introduced into Charles County during the early seventeenth century. By 1712, the number of enslaved persons was 724. The 1790 census listed a slave population of 10,085 in Charles County; slaves comprised 44.5 percent of the total population (Klapthor and Brown 1958:68).

The Potomac River served as a primary waterway that provided access to Charles County. In 1785, Governor William Smallwood negotiated the first joint compact between Maryland and Virginia to control the use of the Potomac River. The Potomac River was considered a common highway for the purposes of navigation and commerce. Citizens owning property along the shores were allowed to build wharves and other improvements that did not disrupt navigation or fisheries (LeCompte 1924). The first of 15 ferries chartered by the Virginia colony also was established during the eighteenth century to provide service between Maryland and Virginia (Brown et al. 1976:19).

The first major road in the county, a section of the inter-colonial post road that linked the Potomac River and the town of Benedict, was built at the turn of the eighteenth century (Wesler et al. 1981:125). Griffith's Map of Maryland (1794) depicted an arterial road system that radiated from Port Tobacco. Many of these roads led to warehouses and landings on the Potomac and Patuxent rivers. The roads were considered good for the period. The roads were reported as passable since the soil was not excessively sandy (Lee 1994).

Transportation systems dictated settlement patterns in Charles County during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. New hamlets were established at the intersections of interior transportation systems, but they remained small and widely dispersed (Wesler et al. 1981:126).

During the Revolutionary War, county citizens supported the independence movement by forming an association for non-importation; by creating and maintaining a defensive local militia; and, by instructing their delegates to vote for separation from Britain. As a result of these activities, British raiding parties destroyed property and alarmed county residents, who were particularly fearful of British-inspired slave insurrections. Properties along the Potomac and Port Tobacco rivers were especially vulnerable to British attack, as English warships regularly patrolled those waters (Klapthor and Brown 1958:50-57). In April 1781, the British raiding parties attacked several locations along the Potomac and Port Tobacco rivers. While the Port Tobacco was saved by its citizens, buildings on nearby plantations, including St. Thomas Manor, were burned (Lee 1994:151). Citizens of Charles County also were called upon to supply colonial troops with food and supplies. During the final days at Yorktown, the Jesuits supplied 338 bushels of wheat to colonial troops over a 23 day period (Lee 1994:182).

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The Revolutionary War provided new freedom for the Roman Catholics living in Maryland. With the ratification of the Maryland Constitution of 1776, Roman Catholic citizens regained the right to vote and freedom of worship (Rivoire 1987; Lee 1994:194). In 1798, the Jesuit Society at St. Thomas Manor constructed a large new parish church. While the church prospered, the leaseholds suffered following the war. Leaseholds that had previously been under long-term life tenancies were changed to short-term leases with higher rents to raise cash for the Jesuits. The resulting change required that the new leaseholders work more land and farm more intensively. The increased intensity of agricultural practices exhausted the soil and the timber. By 1800, the farms on St. Thomas Manor were no longer sufficiently productive to support the occupants (Lee 1994:249).

The growth of Charles County was disrupted temporarily by the War of 1812, as most of the properties along the lower Potomac were plundered by British troops. One of the commercial wharves used during the War of 1812 was located on the east shore of the Port Tobacco River bank in Chapel Point State Park (MdDNR 1994). The infamous British raid that resulted in the burning of Washington, D.C., was launched from Benedict, a town situated along the Patuxent River (Klapthor and Brown 1958:101-104).

Agricultural-Industrial Transition (1815-1870)

Agricultural diversification stimulated a period of economic stability during the early nineteenth century. Nineteenth-century settlement patterns in Charles County were dictated by its basically agricultural economy and its limited transportation options. Some new hamlets developed at intersections of interior transportation systems, providing services to local farming communities (Rivoire 1990:20); however, these villages were small and towns remained widely dispersed (Klapthor and Brown 1958:99). A gazetteer for 1807 listed only five towns in Charles County.

Travel to Washington or Baltimore was accomplished by steamboat or stagecoach. Steamboat transportation provided the principal link between Charles County and the larger urban centers. By 1815, a steam ferry that operated between Washington, D.C., and Potomac Creek, Virginia, made regular stops at several communities in Charles County. By 1854, the county also was serviced regularly by two steamboat lines (Klapthor and Brown 1958:118; Brown et al. 1976:39). A daily mail stagecoach for Charles County was in operation by 1855 (Klapthor and Brown 1958:117).

Tobacco remained the dominant crop of the county throughout this period. In 1840, the county produced 3.25 million pounds of tobacco, an amount that comprised 13.2 percent of the state's total output. By 1860, Charles County's output had increased to 4.5 million pounds, or 12.2 percent of Maryland's production (Wesler et al. 1981:124). During this period of increasing productivity, much of Charles County retained its dependence on slave labor. The local fishing industry also was particularly productive in the years prior to the Civil War (Hardy 2002).

By 1850, African-Americans accounted for approximately 65 percent of Charles County's total population. Although slavery was on the decline by mid-century, over 90 percent of the African-Americans in Charles County were slaves (Fields 1985:10-13). By mid-century the white population of Charles County declined; between 1790 and 1850, the number of whites in the county fell from 10,124 to 5,665 (Fields 1985:13). The decline in the white population can be traced primarily to the unstable or falling tobacco prices that encouraged white emigration to cheaper, more fertile western lands (Wesler et al. 1981:126).

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The period between 1854 and 1868 was tumultuous for both Maryland and the nation as the sectional confrontation over slavery mounted. Although the state remained loyal to the Union, questions of loyalty and emancipation became divisive issues during the war years (Walsh and Fox 1974: 309).

Charles County's dependence upon tobacco, as well as its sizeable slave labor force, resulted in strong Confederate sympathies. County voters went solidly Democratic in the election of 1860. In 1861 a county convention voted to "oppose Federal coercion." When the Civil War began, Charles County's white citizens overwhelmingly favored the Confederacy; they enlisted in the Confederate army and illegally transported mail to the troops further south. As a result, the county was occupied throughout the war by Union forces who were stationed in camps extending from Mattawoman Creek to Liverpool Point, including Chapel Point (Hardy 2002). Union troops were most numerous between October 1861 to April 1862, when General Joseph Hooker's division was stationed in the county to repel a Confederate invasion of the north feared by Gen. George McClellan. The Federal Navy patrolled the Potomac and its tributaries to discourage smuggling of food and medical supplies from Maryland to Virginia (Newmann 1976:213).

During this time, the Port Tobacco Times released an editorial stating that Federal troops were stationed "supposedly to protect citizens, instead negroes are taken with no remuneration, and threats of violence if we seek to recover them" (Klaphor and Brown 1958:123). The county's freed slaves became Union sympathizers and comprised a substantial portion of the 7th Regiment, Maryland Volunteers, U.S. Colored Troops; this force occupied Camp Stanton near Benedict in 1863 before joining the Union Army of the Potomac (Klaphor and Brown 1958:129).

Although no major battles were fought in Charles County during the Civil War, the conflict indirectly curtailed the economic well being of its residents. The war altered previously established economic patterns. Traditionally, much of the state's trade activity had been oriented to the South; however, by 1860, the majority of trade activity shifted North (Walsh and Fox 1974: 333).

By 1864, the monetary value of slave property in Maryland virtually had collapsed (Walsh and Fox 1974: 334). Slavery was abolished in Maryland at the conclusion of the Civil War, and landowners in Charles County were forced to adjust to a dramatic change in the labor force. Immediately following the war, the county suffered economically and was one of the most depressed areas in the state. The loss of slave labor temporarily devastated tobacco production until a system of sharecropping and tenant farming was established (Wesler et al. 1981:128). Small-scale farmers were forced to vacate their land and, as a result, much of this previously cultivated land reverted to forest (Camp 1977:49-51). Nonetheless, the county's postbellum economy retained its dependence upon tobacco, with its intensive demands for labor (Camp 1977:50).

For the Jesuit community on St. Thomas Manor, changes also occurred during the nineteenth century. St. Thomas Manor remained the headquarters of the Maryland Mission of the Society of Jesus until 1833, when the headquarters was removed to Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. (Rivoire 1987). On 27 December 1866, the St. Thomas Manor, St. Ignatius Church, the original chapel, and the east wing were gutted by fire. All interior finishes, furniture, and many church records were destroyed. Rebuilding of the buildings began immediately. The exterior walls were retained and repaired and interiors were rebuilt (Rivoire 1987). A map of the church lot and immediately surrounding property dated 1867 depicted two loci of activity. On Chapel Point were located a wharf, a steam mill, a storehouse, a warehouse, three dwellings (two with gardens), a smith shop, and an old cemetery. The church lot

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contained the church, manor house, graveyard, barn and stable. A row of five cabins and gardens were located east of the church. These cabins housed the butler and clerk (colored tenants), and George Digges. The graves of U.S. soldiers were marked as located northeast of the church lot (Engineering-Science 1987:Figure 2).

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)

During this time period, Charles County experienced minimal economic or population growth. From 1870 to 1930, the population fluctuated between 15,000 and 18,500. Although some African-Americans moved into cities following emancipation, it was not unusual for freed slaves to remain on territory familiar to them from the time of slavery. The number of African-Americans in Charles County remained virtually unchanged between 1860 and 1880. In 1880, African-Americans still comprised 58 percent of Charles County's total population (Fields 1985:176). In 1930, the African-American population comprised 46 percent of the total county population (Wesler et al. 1981:132).

Between 1870 and 1930, the censuses documented two trends in Charles County. The first trend was the overall decrease in agricultural land in the county. The second trend was the increase in number of farms, but a decrease in average farm size. In 1880, 83 percent of the county's land was in agriculture. This was the highest percentage of agricultural land between 1860 and 1930. By 1930, 69 percent of Charles County was in agriculture. Throughout this period, the number of farms increased, but the average farm size decreased. In 1870, 493 farms were reported in Charles County; the average farm comprised approximately 342 acres. By 1930, 1,507 farms with an average size of 136 acres were reported in the census (Wesler et al. 1981:130-136).

After the Civil War, records began to be collected on tenant farming and sharecropping. In Charles County in 1880, the total number of farms numbered 1408. Of these, 813 farms were cultivated by owners, 225 farms were rented for money, and 370 farms were rented for shares of the product (UVA 1998). The 1900 census was the first census to record the numbers of white and African-American farmers. White farmers in Charles County numbered 1,117 while African-American farmers numbered 783. White tenants numbered 353 farmers, while African-American tenants numbered 376. In 1930, the total number of farms was 1,592. Of these, 1003 farmers were full or part owners, while 583 farmers were tenants. Six farms were operated by farm managers. White farmers numbered 1,037, while African-American farmers numbered 555. In 1930, the value of land and buildings of African-American tenant farmers was over \$1.5 million, as compared to the value of land and buildings of white farmers at over \$6.7 million (UVA 1998).

The primary crop in Charles County throughout this period was tobacco. In 1870, over 2.1 million pounds of tobacco were grown in the county. The sharp decrease in tobacco production between 1860 and 1870 was a result of the social restructuring that occurred following the Civil War. The amount of tobacco reported as grown in 1880 and 1900 rebounded to over 5 million pounds. Although more pounds of tobacco were grown during the last decades of the nineteenth century, the price of tobacco remained depressed. In 1910 and 1920, over 3 million pound of tobacco were raised. In 1930, over 4.2 million pounds of tobacco were raised and the price of tobacco increased to make tobacco growing profitable (Wesler et al. 1981; Bowie 1947). Between 1900 and 1930, Charles County's tobacco output represented between 19 and 22 percent of tobacco grown in the state of Maryland.

Between 1900 and 1930, agricultural diversification in Charles County remained minimal. The recorded value of slaughtered animals, dairy products, and orchard products remained under \$100,000 throughout this period. The value of poultry spiked at over \$115,000 in 1920, but dropped to below \$63,000 in 1930.

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The decrease in agricultural production was off-set by a rise in value of timber. Soil that had been exhausted by tobacco monoculture was reforested with pine and gum trees that could tolerate poor soil conditions. Landowners began to utilize their holdings for commercial timbering. In the 1930 census, the value of forest products in Charles County was reported as over \$154,000 (Wesler et al. 1981:134-136). In 1945, Maryland Board of Natural Resources estimated that 65 percent of Charles County was forested, with an additional 5 to 10 percent in marsh (Board of Natural Resources 1948:212).

In the state overall, Maryland's industrial sector experienced the greatest economic growth during this period. Older industries flourished, while new industries were established, and dramatic demographic shifts accompanied this industrial growth. In Maryland, there was an exodus from the farms to cities and towns. For the first time, more Marylanders were engaged in industry than agriculture (Walsh and Fox 1974: 396).

There were some efforts at economic diversification in Charles County during this period. Many owners of large estates on the Potomac River resumed commercial fishing. The U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries noted in 1876 that the Chapman's Point fishery produced shad and two kinds of herring, as well as rockfish, white perch, catfish, and mullet sucker. By 1897, the Potomac River supported more commercial fisheries than any other river on the East Coast. The U.S. Fish Commission established a substation at Chapman's Landing during the late nineteenth century to maintain supplies (Tilp 1978:17-19).

The first major non-agricultural facility to be located in Charles County was a naval station that was constructed on Mattawoman Neck between 1890 and 1918. The Indian Head Ordnance Station grew to contain a naval powder factory, an ordnance proving ground, an acid plant, and a facility for manufacturing torpedo explosives (Klapthor and Brown 1958:144). Private manufacturing enterprises geared primarily towards food processing also grew steadily during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The county's first cannery opened at La Plata in 1883; by 1920, 29 food processing facilities operated in Charles County (Wesler et al. 1981:129), including the prominent Morgan Monroe Caviar Factory, which processed sturgeon roe (Brown et al. 1976:30).

The first railroad service arrived in the county in 1872 when the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad constructed a line between Bowie in Prince George's County and Popes Creek in Charles County. The new railroad line stimulated the creation of several new hamlets and post offices in the county, including La Plata, Waldorf, and White Plains. The arrival of the railroad also sounded the death knell for river towns like Port Tobacco, which lost its designation as county seat to La Plata in 1895 (Klapthor and Brown 1958:138; Wesler et al. 1981:129).

Existing roads within the county were improved during the first decades of the twentieth century to accommodate automobile traffic. The first all-weather road in the county, the Old Livingston Road, extended from the Naval Powder Factory at Indian Head to Washington, D.C. This road was not paved until after World War I (Camp 1977:44). The state extended its highway system into Charles County in 1910, and the Crain Highway (the present Route 301) was extended to the Potomac River in 1922 (Wesler et al. 1982:129). Although road conditions improved, steam boats and ferries continued to provide the primary means of transportation within the county.

Modern Period (1930 - Present)

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The population of Charles County remained constant throughout the early twentieth century; between 1900 and 1940, the number of residents remained between 16,000 and 17,500 (Camp 1977:46). Between 1950 and 1980, the population of the county rose dramatically from 23,415 to 72,751 (Baltimore Sun 1988:19).

By 1950, the amount of county land in agriculture continued to decrease. By 1958, 70 percent of the land area of Charles County was timbered, and timber products ranked second to tobacco for farm incomes (Klapthor and Brown 1958:161). The 1950 census recorded 1,576 farms in the county, of which 1,057 were operated by white farmers and 519 were operated by non-white farmers. One thousand twenty-eight were owner operated, while 542 farms were tenanted (UVA 1998).

Charles County's rural character and proximity to Washington, D.C. attracted the attention of affluent families seeking a country retreat. This movement spurred a period of major restoration activity in Charles County. Between 1925 and 1945, investors from outside Maryland purchased many of the county's major architectural landmarks. Gorham Hubbard acquired Mt. Aventine in 1938. Oak Grove, Araby, and Truman's Place, all National Register listed properties, were purchased and rehabilitated during this approximately 20-year span. Efforts were begun to restore Smallwood's Retreat. These new landowners formed a unique social and economic circle that influenced local politics (Rivoire 1973, 1990).

Twentieth-century transportation improvements encouraged economic changes in southern Maryland. Steamboats continued to sail along the Potomac River through the late 1940s. Between ca. 1926 and ca. 1948, Chapel Point was the location of an amusement park that was accessed via steamers from Washington, D.C. New transportation networks established a north-south corridor of commercial traffic (Camp 1977:44). Charles County was linked to the Virginia shoreline with the construction of a bridge during the late 1930s. Modern transportation and communication facilities encouraged urban/suburban development of Charles County.

The dualization of Indian Head Highway during the 1970s made the northwestern portion of the county more accessible to those who worked in the Washington metropolitan area and stimulated an influx of suburban commuters (Camp 1977:62).

Currently, Charles County is changing rapidly from a rural to suburban environment. Farmers comprise only a small minority of the county's population, and relatively few late nineteenth or early twentieth century family farmsteads remain intact in the region. Although the number of residents earning their income from agriculture dropped from 32 percent in 1940 to 3 percent in 1970 (Camp 1977:49), Charles County remained the second highest tobacco-producing county in the state during the 1980s (Baltimore Sun 1988:19). The U.S. Naval Ordnance Station at Indian Head continues to serve as a major employer of the region, and stimulates area commercial development and housing construction. In addition, the improved transportation routes and proximity to Washington, D.C., has increased the appeal of such bedroom communities as Potomac Heights, Woodland Village and Warrington Hills. However, large areas of the county continue to retain a rural flavor. Efforts to rescue Maryland's rivers from pollution, to attract tourism, and to preserve open space have resulted in the purchase of property along the Potomac, Port Tobacco, and Patuxent rivers to provide public recreational access to the river. In 1972, MdDNR acquired the eastern 829 acres of the former St. Thomas Manor from the Roman Catholic Church to preserve the land as open space. Chapel Point State Park is being incorporated into the Potomac River Greenways program. Other areas, such as Mattawoman Creek, are being preserved as wildlife management areas to protect fish and wildfowl habitats.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 828

Acreage of historical setting approx. 850

Quadrangle name Mathias Point

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the survey area comprise all property owned by Maryland Department of Natural Resources within the legal boundaries of Chapel Point State Park as of April 2003.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title A. Levinthal, K. Grandine, J. Maymon, D. Gross

organization R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.

date 9/15/03

street and number 241 E. 4th Street, Suite 100

telephone 301-694-0428

city or town Frederick

state MD zip code 21701

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-375

Name Chapel Point State Park

Continuation Sheet

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Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-375

Chapel Point State Park, Charles County, Maryland
Continuation Sheet

Number Photo log Page 1

The following information is the same for each photograph:

1. MIHP # CH-375
2. Chapel Point State Park
3. Charles County, Maryland
4. R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.
5. March, April 2003
6. MD SHPO

Photo #

1. Chapel Point (Site 18CH79), view looking southwest.
2. Concrete foundations on Chapel Point associated with former amusement park, view looking east.
3. Boundary marker, view looking west.
4. Former Catholic Tenant House, view looking west.
5. Former Catholic Tenant House Shed, view looking west.
6. Former Catholic Pumphouse, view looking east.
7. Former Catholic Machine Shed, view looking north.
8. Corncrib 1, view looking south.
9. Chicken coop, view looking north.
10. Three-bay Machine Shed, view looking north.
11. Two-bay Machine Shed, view looking north.
12. Tobacco Barn No. A, view looking east.
13. Tobacco Barn No. B, view looking south.
14. Tobacco Barn No. C, view looking south.
15. Tobacco Barn No. D, view looking north.
16. Corncrib 2, view looking south.



CH-375

Chapel Point SP

Charles Co. MD

RCGA

March, April 2003

MD SHPO

Chapel Point 18CH79, looking SW

1/16



CH-375

Chapel Point SP

Charles Co. MD

REG A

March, April 2003

MD SHPO

Concrete foundations, looking East

2/16



CH-375

Chapel Point SP

Charles Co MD

RCGA

March, April 2003

MD SHPO

Boundary marker, looking W

3/16

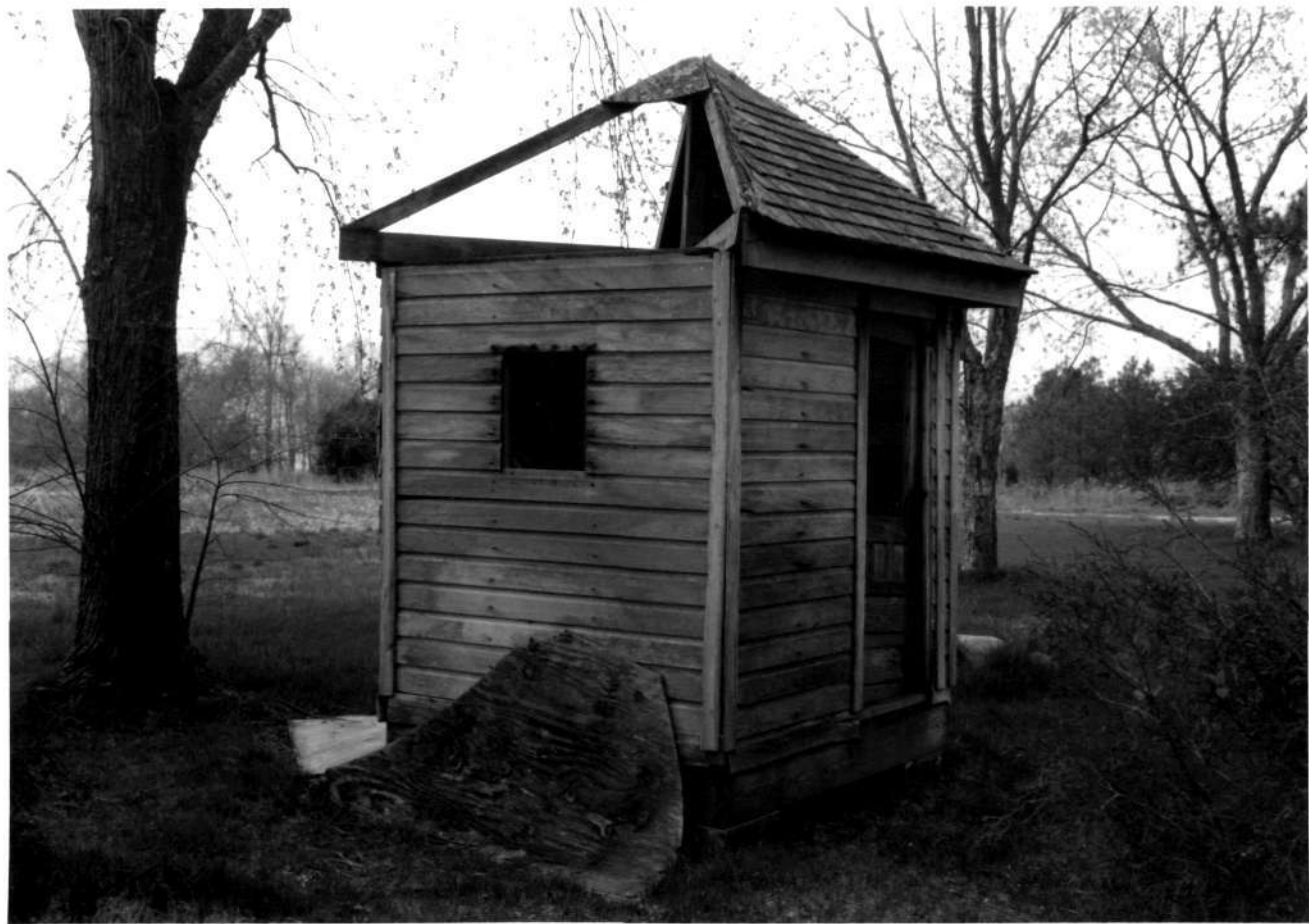


CH-375
Chapel Point SP
Charles Co. MD

RCGA
March, April 2003
MD SH Po

Catholic Tenant Hse, looking W

4/16



CH-375

Chapel Point SP

Charles Co., MD

RCGA

March, April 2003

MD SHPs

Former Catholic Tenant Hse shed, looking W

5/16



CH-375

Chapel Point SP

Charles CD MD

RCG-A

March, April 2003

MD SHPO

Former Catholic Pumpshse, looking E

6/16



CH-375

Chapel Point SP

Charles Co. MD

RCGA

March, April 2003

MD SH Po

Former Catholic Machine shed, looking N

7/16



CH-375

Chapel Point SP

Charles Co. MD

RCGA

March, April 2003

MD SHPo

Cornerib 1, looking S

8/16



CH-375
Chapel Point SP
Charles Co. MD

RCGA

March, April 2003

MD SHPs

Chicken coops looking N

9/16

/



CH-375

Chapel Point SP

Charles Co. MD

RCG-A

March, April 2003

MD SHPO

Three-bay Machine Shed, looking N

10/16



CH-375

Chapel Point SP
Charles Co. MD

RC&A

March, April 2003

MD SHPO

Two-bay machine shed, looking N

11/16



CH-375

Chapel Point SP

Charles Co. MD

RCGA

March, April 2003

MD S#10

Tobacco Barn A, looking E

12/16



CH-375
Chapel Point SP
Charles Co. MD
RCA
March, April 2003
MD SHPO
Tobacco Barn B, looking South
13/16



CH-375
Chapel Point SP
Charles Co. MD

ECG II, April 2003
MD SHPO

Tobacco barn C, looking S

14 of 16



CH-375

Chapel Point SP

Charles Co. MD

REFA

March, April 2003

MD SHPo

Tobacco Barn, D, looking N

15/16



CH-375

Chapel Point SP

Charles Co. MD

RCGA

March - April 2003

MD SHPo

Cornerib 2, looking S

14/14